GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:285
ANSWERED ON:15.03.2000
POPULATION OF CHILD LABOUR
MANJAY LAL;MOHAN RAWALE

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has the largest population of child labour in the World;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith population of child labour in neighbouring countries and other developing/developed countries of the World;

(c) the child labour employed in major cities in comparision to the rural areas in the country;

(d) whether there is large scale smuggling of children from rural areas to the major cities;

(e) if so, the steps taken by Government to put a stop to it;

(f) the projection of child labour in next five years in the country; and

(g) fresh initiatives taken/ proposed to be taken by the Government to monitor schemes of National Child Labour projects?

Answer

MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA)

(a) to (g): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT AS REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO (A) TO (G) OF THE LOKSABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 285 FOR ANSWER ON 15.03.2000 REGARDING POPULATION OF CHILD LABOUR BY SHRI MOHAN RAWALE AND SHRI MANJAY LAL.

(a) & (b): According to the 1991 census data on child labour, the number of working children in India is 11.28 million. As per information received from the ILO, India has the largest number of child labour population in the world. The estimates and projections of Economically Active Population of children 10-14 years age as produced by the ILO Bureau of statistics in 1996, gives the following figures for India and its neighbouring countries:

Country	Total Economically active population children 14 years of age (000`s)
India	13,157
Bangladesh	4,846
Nepal	1,277
Pakistan	2,993
Sri Lanka	35

Information on other developing and developed countries is not readily available.

(c): More than 90% of child labour is engaged in rural areas, in agriculture and allied employments like cultivation, agricultural labour, livestock, forestry and fisheries. State-wise figures as per Census reports are at Annexure.

(d) to (e): No such reports have been brought to the notice of the Government.

(f): Authentic figures of child labour in the country are generated by the decennial census. According to 1991 census the number of working children in India is 11.28 millions.

(g): Through the Scheme of National Child Labour Project and Grant-in-aid attempts are being made to rehabilitate children withdrawn from work. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) in its meeting held on 23.01.99 approved continuance of the

Scheme of National Child Labour Project during the Ninth Five Year Plan.The CCEA also approved increase in number of projects to 100. At present there are 91 child labour projects. The performance of NCLPsis being monitored through receipt of periodic reports of project activities and inspections undertaken at the Central, State and District level.A Central Monitoring Committee under the Chairmanship of Union Labour Secretary has also been set up for the overall supervision, monitoring and evaluation of the NCLPs.